

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 10 and 12 have been amended and claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. After entry of this response, claims 1-6, 8-10, 12 and 13 remain pending in the present application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration by the Examiner in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,679,026 to Fain, et al. ("Fain"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,628,934 to Pohndorf, et al. ("Pohndorf"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claims of the present disclosure set forth an adaptor comprising a connector ring extending circumferentially over a segment of an exterior surface of an adaptor body and shaped to form an electrical contact resilient key along an inner portion of the connector ring extending through the insulating adaptor body into the lumen to project from the inner lumen surface, the key dimensioned so as to be in registration with one of the lead connector pads at a time when the lead connector is inserted into the lumen of the adaptor body and rotated relative to the adaptor body about a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end of the insulating adaptor body to the distal end of the insulating adapter body.

Fain teaches a header adapter shaped to conform to the contour of the header and pulse generator can to which it is to be secured, and that is provided with set screw cavities formed in a first side portion of the adapter and a second side portion of the adapter for receiving sets screws to secure a connector within the adapter, as is known in the art for securing a connector.

Pohndorf teaches an electronic electrode switching/selection circuit and is merely introduced for its teaching of the employment of leads with an array of connector pads to engage with adapters. Neither Fain nor Pohndorf, alone or in combination, teach or suggest an adaptor or a method providing an adaptor, the adapter comprising a connector ring extending circumferentially over a segment of an exterior surface of an

adaptor body and shaped to form an electrical contact resilient key along an inner portion of the connector ring extending through the insulating adaptor body into the lumen to project from the inner lumen surface, the key dimensioned so as to be in registration with one of the lead connector pads at a time when the lead connector is inserted into the lumen of the adaptor body and rotated relative to the adaptor body about a longitudinal axis extending from the proximal end of the insulating adaptor body to the distal end of the insulating adapter body, as set forth in claims 1 and 12 of the present invention, respectively. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 and claims 2-6, 8 and 9 dependent thereon and claim 12 and claim 13 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Fain and Pohndorf. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of those claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 sets forth a lead connector system comprising an array of lead connector pads distributed circumferentially in an adjacent spaced apart relationship around a periphery of a lead connector and an adaptor comprising a connector ring extending circumferentially over a segment of an exterior surface of the adaptor body and shaped to form a surface depression along an inner portion of the connector ring, the depression dimensioned so as to be in registration with the protrusion of one of the lead connector pads. Neither Fain nor Pohndorf, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a connector ring extending circumferentially over a segment of an exterior surface of the adaptor body and shaped to form a surface depression along an inner portion of the connector ring, the depression dimensioned so as to be in registration with a protrusion of one of the lead connector pads, as set forth in claim 10. Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 10 is patentably distinguishable from Fain and Pohndorf. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested. In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant asserts that the remarks presented herein are fully responsive to the Office Action and are sufficient to overcome the rejections presented in the Office Action. However, there may be other arguments to be made as to why the pending

claims are patentable. Applicant does not concede any such arguments by having not presented them herein.

Please grant any extension of time, if necessary for entry of this paper, and charge any fee due for such extension or any other fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Should any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

August 1, 2008
Date

/Carol F. Barry/
Carol F. Barry
Reg. No. 41,600
(763) 526-0932
Customer No. 27581